MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The purchase of ganja and opium is not the only item of work that has to be done by the officer. He has to do other works also. For this reason, the Government cannot post a particular person in a particular place for all time.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any expert knowledge is required for the purchase of ganja?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is all explained in the answer to part (*f*) of the question.

Case against the Navasakti.

102. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they took any action in respect of an article in the *Navasakti*, and, if so, what action and in respect of what article and the reasons for taking such action ; and

(*b*) whether that paper was compelled by the Government to apologise for writing it and whether that paper apologised ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In respect of the leading article under the heading "മി: വാട്ട് സുവാത്തന്നാ?" published in the issue of the *Navasakti*, dated the 15th Mithunam 1101, the Government issued a warning to the printer and publisher of the newspaper, as the Government were satisfied that the article offended a gainst the provisions of sub-section (i) of Section 5 of Regulation V of 1101.

(*b*) The Government cannot compel an apology. An expression of regret for having published the offending article was, however, published in a subsequent issue of the paper.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know whether it was on account of the warning given to the paper that it apologised ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It might be so.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the offence that the paper committed in its leading article under reference ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I would refer the member to the answer to part (*a*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I want to know whether it was a defamatory article.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is certainly clear from the answer given there.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know why the paper was not prosecuted ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government took a generous view of the case and did not want to resort to extreme measures.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Am I to understand that even if a paper publishes very defamatory articles, the Government would take a lenient view of the matter and would not resort to prosecution ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That general statement does not follow from my answer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): By publishing that article, was it not the view of the Government that the paper committed an offence ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The answer to part (*a*) gives that information.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is it not a fact that when the Government warned the paper, they were quite convinced that the paper had committed an offence ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Then, why did they not prosecute the paper ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already answered that question. It is not necessary that prosecution should be resorted to in all cases.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is there any rule framed by the Government that prosecution should be resorted to in particular cases and should not be resorted to in other cases ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): So, it is a matter purely in the discretion of the Government ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Proportion of Communities represented in the Service.

103. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish statements showing the proportion which the number of officers drawing a pay of Rs. 100 and above in respect of each community bears to the total number of officers of the above category and the proportion which the population of each of such communities bears to the total population of the State; and

(*b*) the proportion which the number of Hindu, Christian and Mahomedan officers drawing a pay of Rs. 100 and above bears to the total number of appointments and the proportion which the population of Hindu, Christian and Mahomedan communities in the State bears to the total population ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government do not propose to prepare and furnish the statements called for as they consider that the time and labour involved in their preparation are out of all proportion to the advantage intended to be gained thereby.

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